

apricot
PORTABLE
THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE





“There is a very definite demand for a really easy to use, portable computer, so highly specified that it will be years before its technology is surpassed.

A business portable computer incorporating a Flat Panel display that can accompany you wherever you work. A computer that makes no compromises in functionality.

A micro that is easier to use than any of today's personal computers because you can communicate with it in the most natural way – by voice.

Those were the design criteria. The reality is the ACT Apricot Portable.”

*Roger K Foster,
Founder and Group Managing Director.
ACT (Holdings) plc, 28th June, 1984.*

THE APRICOT PORTABLE

Rarely does a product emerge which has the hallmark of success indelibly stamped upon it from day one. The Apricot Portable is just such a product. A computer that demands attention, begs closer inspection and will undoubtedly grab your imagination. It is a computer that will in years to come be regarded as a major milestone in personal computing.

So take a look at the future of computing.



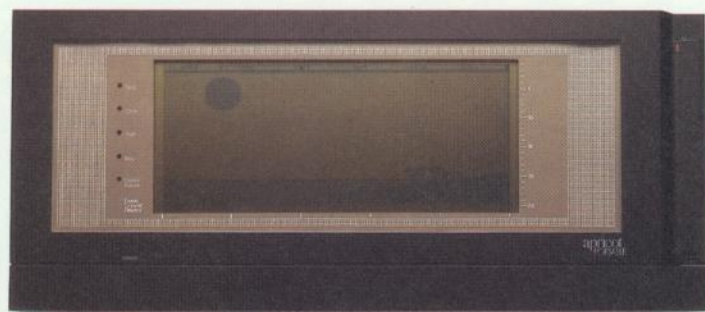
COMMANDING PERFORMANCE

Nowhere is the sophistication of the Apricot Portable realised more fully than in the range of input options.

The cordless keyboard is incredibly slim and elegant, yet retains the full functionality of the more traditional desk top computer. The cordless mouse adds a new dimension to the control and manipulation of data. Its unique trackerball facility maximises the mouse's normal functionality.

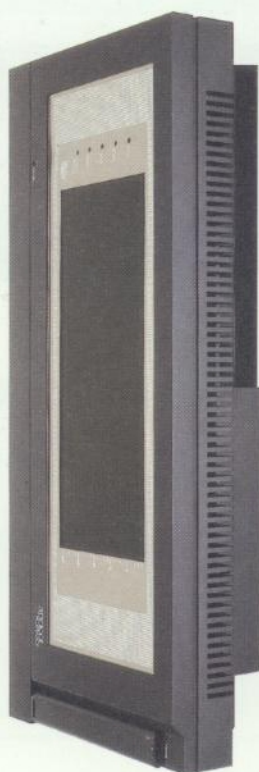
And, for the first time, a sophisticated speech recognition system has been incorporated – as a serious, effective and natural method of communication.



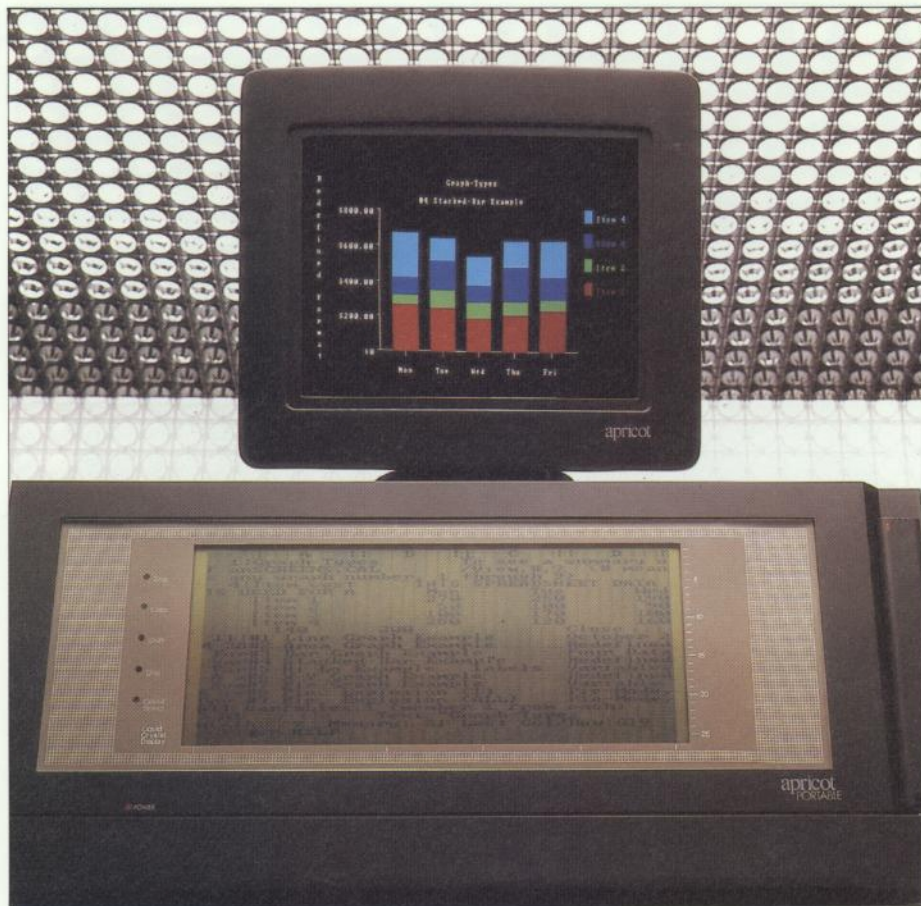


THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

At the heart of the Apricot Portable lies a miracle of modern technology. Twin printed circuit boards concentrated with more power than you will probably ever need. The Apricot designers have ensured that the unit is incredibly compact, yet no sacrifices in performance have been made. Immense main memory and additional memory to handle the Apricot Portable's sophisticated graphics, a high speed processor and extensive mass memory in the form of the revolutionary 3.5" disk. The Apricot Portable has everything.







THE RIGHT IMAGE

The Apricot Portable combines the advantages of a full size 80 column by 25 lines Flat Panel integral high resolution graphics display with the additional optional facility to drive a variety of colour monitors. Its ability to display data and colour graphics simultaneously is invaluable for the analysis and display of complex numerical data.

For the professional on the move the portability is further enhanced by the inclusion of a brief case size hard case. This can also take the Apricot portable printer, incredibly compact for an 80 column full function printer, and colour co-ordinated for maximum style.

And for heavy duty processing, the optional Apricot MSD (mass storage device) boosts storage by a further 10 Megabytes.



THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

The Apricot Portable is at the very pinnacle of business micro innovation – from its speech recognition to the infra-red mouse, it has been designed to set new standards of excellence in performance, reliability and user-satisfaction.

The hallmarks of a machine for the discerning professional.

With a full QWERTY layout and separate numerical function key pads, the keyboard has been designed to enable the complete novice or typing enthusiast to get the most from the machine.

For greater ease of use, cordless transmission enables the user to operate the keyboard exactly where and how he pleases, while a unique light pipe ensures complete security when the Apricot Portable is used in a group environment.

Spring-loaded drop-down feet at the head of the keyboard also ensure that it can be set at the most comfortable working angle.

The speech recognition facility incorporates a set of software tools which enable the user to tailor any application to utilise speech input. The user cannot only compile a vocabulary of over 4000 words, but can also train the Apricot Portable to respond to different dialects

and languages, if required.

The optional Apricot mouse also incorporates the most advanced infra-red technology. Designed to operate in the conventional manner on a user's desk, it also features a hand operated trackerball for use when desk space is limited.

To ensure that first time users can exploit the power of the Apricot Portable to the full, a disk based tutorial describes in simple, comprehensive terms, how to use the machine's sophisticated user interface. This employs icon technology to translate commands for the most common tasks into simple graphical representations on the computer screen.

If the strength of a microcomputer is ultimately measured by software availability, then the Apricot Portable is second to none. Well over 1000 packages have already been developed for the fully compatible Apricot range and many more packages are introduced every month.

However, to ensure that the Apricot Portable is ready to make an immediate contribution to your business, it is supplied with three of the most popular software packages currently available.

SuperWriter — a powerful, yet easy-to-use word processor including spelling checker and mailing facilities.

SuperCalc — the best established spreadsheet package for financial projections and 'what if' calculations.

SuperPlanner — versatile address book and executive planning features.

ACT Diary, a sophisticated diary/planning programme is also included together with ACT Sketch, enabling you to generate high quality graphics virtually at the touch of a button.

The Apricot Portable's monitor options are the very model of versatility. Its integral 80 character by 25 line LCD makes this machine the first full function flat screen portable in the world, while its optional 16 colour capability enables it to create razor sharp images on any compatible colour monitors.

And last but not least, the use of standard RS232 and Centronics ports, as well as an Apricot expansion port, enable the Apricot Portable to link with an extensive range of peripherals.

THE TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Processor:	Intel 8086 running at 5 Mhz
Memory:	272k bytes RAM plus 32k ROM. Manufacturing options of 512k and 1 Megabyte.
I/O:	RS232C (Z80—S10) Centronics port TI sound chip.
Display:	80×25 line Flat Panel (LCD) display 640×200 pixel in graphics mode using custom display controller.
Display: (Optional)	112k bytes of memory IRGB colour monitor
Mode 1:	Logic (6845) to drive a colour monitor 640×256 by 3 planes. Colour palette to give 8 colours from 16.
Mode 2:	640×200 by 3 planes.
Mode 3:	640×256 by 4 planes (LCD display is disabled).
Speech Recognition:	64 word vocabulary (at any instant). Up to 4096 words using overlays.
Keyboard:	I/R connection with or without light pipe (uses Hamming code for 32 bit synchronous communications protocol error detection). 92 keys including 10 function keys.
Mass storage:	One double-sided 3.5" disk drive—720k bytes.
Mouse: (optional)	I/R connection. Functions as both trackerball and mouse. Two buttons.
Expansion:	One Apricot PC compatible expansion slot.
Weight:	Systems Unit with LCD: 10lbs Keyboard: 2.87lbs
Dimensions:	Systems Unit— Length: 450mm Width: 172mm Height: 200mm Keyboard— Length: 450mm Width: 167mm Height: 28.5mm

Mass Storage Device (optional): 10 Mbyte external.

Inclusive Software:

Tutorial	MS-DOS 2.11
ACT Sketch	GSX
User Interface	Concurrent DOS (optional)
ACT Diary	CP/M-86 (optional)
ACT Game	GW Basic (optional)
SuperWriter	Personal Basic (optional)
SuperCalc	
SuperPlanner	



The Apricot Portable —
precisely what a portable
should be.



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